



MEEKER AND WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting - Joint Powers Board #0938
Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes - Official

Present: *Amy Johnson, Cindy Miller, Jessica Johnson, Colleen Carlson, Gena Jacobson, Julie Rae Pennertz*

Absent: *Kelsey Puncochar*

Others Present: *Melissa Hanson, Heidi Hennen, Emily Schneider, Meera Lyver, Jill Sundblad*

I. Call to Order

The Regular meeting was called to order at 5:58p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Colleen Carlson. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Julie Rae Pennertz and seconded by Jessica Johnson. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda which included:

- Minutes of Previous Board Meeting
- Bills for Payment and other financial reports as attached
- Personnel Items
- *Resignation/Retirement of the following staff:*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Rebecca Atkinson	Program Administrator Village Ranch Alternative Program	June 30, 2024
John Anderson	Special Education Teacher	June 5, 2024

- *Employment of the following staff:*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
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Christa Vaughn	1.0 FTE Paraprofessional Cornerstones	April 16, 2024
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- *Contract Change:*
Lucille Ekholm, Floating Special Education Teacher, 6 additional days for 2023-2024 school year contract only (non-continuing contract days), Effective May 13, 2024 - May 31, 2024

V. Informational Items

Meera Lyver, teacher for students with visual impairments, informed the board about a Lego Braille Blocks training she attended in New Jersey on the importance of play for children's development and how to include play activities into braille instruction.

VI. Reports

Executive Director Report

Staffing and Personnel

Due to a resignation, MAWSECO has a Program Administrator opening at the Village Ranch Alternative Program starting July 1, 2024. MAWSECO anticipates several FMLA leaves in the coming months and is working to find coverage for each of these vacancies.

Member District Special Education Programs

MAWSECO has provided Ukeru training in addition to Handle with Care training to staff in setting IV programs over the past two years. Ukeru is a national crisis intervention program to offer alternatives to the use of restraints/seclusion by using trauma-informed care. It uses techniques backed by decades of brain-based research and neuroscience. Many of MAWSECO's member districts are planning to provide Ukeru training to certain staff members and administrators beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. This will be in addition to current Handle with Care training.

Other

As the current President of the MN Administrators for Special Education (MASE), Melissa Hanson has the honor of selecting one recipient from a member district of MAWSECO to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from MASE in recognition of the President's service. Eligible candidates must be pursuing a degree in special education or related field such as speech-language pathology or school psychology and graduating from high school in the current school year. Melissa has chosen a student from Dassel-Cokato High



School and the recipient will receive the scholarship at the D-C scholarship awards program on May 22nd. The recipient is not yet aware that they have been selected.

Director of Business Services Report

FY25 Building Lease Meetings

Melissa Hanson and Heidi Hennen have been working together to solidify all of the program building lease agreements. There is a good possibility that HLWW will be moving the ALP out of the Ed Center leaving the space available for MAWSECO to possibly lease. The current thinking would be for some of the itinerant personnel to move down into the ALP space. Melissa and Heidi will be meeting with Megan and Nate Walbruch, HLWW Superintendent, to talk through what this might look like.

FY25 Preliminary Budget

The FY25 Primary Budget is well underway. Payroll budget should be nearing completion by the end of this week and the non-payroll budget should be nearing completion the following week. Heidi Hennen plans to share non-payroll budgets with supervisors/network leaders/program administrators the week of May 6th so there will be time in the week or two following to make any changes or gather any last minute information needed. Changes planned for the coming year include the professional development budget and the classroom supplies budgets. It is the aim that all staff members should know that there are professional development opportunities available to them and that the budget in this area makes sense for their area. Heidi is working toward having a roughly estimated per pupil budget so that each teacher can have an idea of what they have to spend for the year on school supplies. It is still in the development stages and will be discussed with the program administrator(s) to help determine appropriate amounts.

Program Administrator Report

DAPE

DAPE Networking has continued and brought information out to all the districts as they participate. MAWSECO was able to borrow sport wheelchairs from St. Cloud State University for students to use throughout the programs as well as in the districts to participate in wheelchair basketball. This was a huge success.

Journeys

Students enjoyed growing tomato and pepper plants with hydroponics. They have gotten the opportunity to practice their social skills by playing games with the STEP students



1-2 times a week. The students' needs have transitioned to be more physical and mental health related within the program. There are currently postings for one more paraprofessional and one more teacher to be able to add in more students to the program.

Step

Students are taking advantage of being able to sign up for inside and outside activities with the DAPE teachers based on their interests. Activities are focused on healthy lifestyle choices for recreation and leisure. Students are exploring work placements and day programs for after graduation by touring locations around the area. Students continue to run the coffee shop in the staff lounge two days a week.

Trek

The animal focus has been on insects as spring comes around. Students are enjoying the ability to go outside more and get some fresh air for their break times. A paraprofessional was hired and will start in the 2024-2025 school year. There continue to be four paraprofessional and one teacher openings posted.

Cornerstones/Eastern Wright

Due to growing needs, enrollment has continued to increase in the Cornerstones program over the last month. Staff welcomed a new paraprofessional, Christa Vaughn, and a new school social worker, Sonja Brevik, to the Cornerstone program. The Eastern Wright teachers have been working closely with the Behavior Analysts to create more individualized incentive programs to better meet the needs of each student. Some students from both programs were able to participate in a fishing trip at Lake Pulaski as part of their incentive program.

VII. Action Items

A. New Business

1. Fiscal Year 24 Revised Budget

A motion to approve the FY24 revised budget was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Colleen Carlson. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy Review

The following policies were brought to the board for a first reading. No action was taken.

Policy 406 - Public and Private Personnel Data + Form

Policy 410 - Family and Medical Leave

Policy 413 - Harassment and Violence



Policy 416 - Drug and Alcohol Testing
Policy 416 Attachments - Drug and Alcohol Testing
Policy 427 - Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
Policy 451 - Teacher Probation and Evaluation
Policy 506 - Student Discipline
Policy 515 - Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records (form)
Policy 714 - Fund Balance Policy
Policy 806 - Crisis Management Policy

3. Resolution Accepting Donations

A motion to approve the resolution accepting three Fire tablets received from board member Amy Johnson was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Cindy Miller.

Roll Call Vote:

Cindy Miller - Aye

Amy Johnson - Abstained

Kelsey Puncochar - Absent

Julie Rae Pennertz - Aye

Colleen Carlson - Aye

Jessica Johnson - Aye

Gena Jacobson - Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Proposed Special Education Administrative Restructuring

Motion to approve the proposed Special Education Administrative Restructuring was made by Gena Jacobson and seconded by Julie Rae Pennertz. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Future Board Meetings

- A.** May 23, 2024, 4:00 p.m., MSEA Union Negotiations Committee Meeting, MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake
- B.** May 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m. MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake
- C.** June 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m. Sholund School for Girls, 370 Annandale Boulevard, Annandale, MN
- D.** July 23, 2024, 6:00 p.m. MAWSECO Education Center, Howard Lake



Meeting Date:
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42p.m.

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